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Texas A&M

The Battalion

Vol. 88 No. 96 USPS 045360 10 pages

College Station, Texas

WEATHER

FORECAST for THURSDAY:
 Cloudy and cooler with a 40 per-
 cent chance of rain. Northeast
 winds.

HIGH:62

LOW:44

Wednesday, February 15, 1989

Officials: A&M regent need not be minority

By Stephen Masters

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Having a minority appointed to the Texas A&M System Board of Regents would be nice, but race should not be the deciding issue, said the presidents of the three member University System of South Texas.

The A&M Board voted in November to merge with the USST. The merger is subject to approval by the Legislature.

The A&M Board has two vacancies caused by the expiration of the six-year terms of David Eller and Dr. John Coleman. Both left office Feb.

Regents are appointed by the governor and are subject to approval by the state Senate.

Gov. Bill Clements recently came under fire for not nominating a minority to the University of Texas System. UT regents approved a merger with the Pan American University System in South Texas in November.

One nominee for the UT Board, Chester Upham Jr., withdrew his name from consideration after the criticism. Clements nominated Mario Yzaguirre, a Hispanic businessman from South Texas, to replace Upham.

Similar criticism is likely if Clements names white males to the A&M Board, especially now that Coleman's term has expired, which leaves the Board without any minorities.

But Dr. Leo Ayavaera, president of Laredo State University, said he doesn't think the race of prospective regents should be the main consideration.

"I think it's vital to have sensitive people that understand the educational needs of Texans," Ayavaera said. "I think that ethnicity is second-

"I think the issue should be that whoever is named or appointed to the Board are people who are sensitive to the needs of the entire System. That would be my primary concern. When the appointments are made I would hope that they would be made with that in mind."

Dr. Steven Altman agreed that sensitivity to the System's needs is important.

"I think it's vital to have sensitive people that understand the educational needs of Texans. I think that ethnicity is secondary."

— Dr. Leo Ayavaera, president, Laredo State University,

"It's really a broader question than that," Altman said. "It's a matter of sensitivity to the needs of individuals."

"Certainly it's desirable to have people who others in the population can identify with, but merely saying minority versus non-minority — you've got to go farther than that. (They should have) sensitivity and knowledge of the particular needs of a region and its population."

Dr. Alan Sugg, president of Corpus Christi State University, said a Board representative of the population it serves likely would be more sensitive to the region it serves.

"I think it is beneficial to any board of regents to have a representative group of people representing the entire state," he said. "I think with the University System of South Texas, which we hope will become part of the Texas A&M System, there's no question it would be bene-

ficial to have a Hispanic on the Texas A&M Board."

"I don't think that (saying an all white male Board would not be sensitive to minorities and women) is necessarily true. Somebody might assume that would be true, but there are many good Anglo males who are extremely open minded about what the needs of our society and education needs are. I would not want to say that, just because it's a male Anglo Board, they could not represent the university."

Ayavaera agreed, but he said sensitivity does not necessarily follow directly from a person's location.

"Obviously one assumes that if a person is from South Texas, they would be sensitive to the needs of the region, but that may or may not be true," he said. "My position would be that if there are people out there that are minority, as it were, and these people are sensitive and understand the needs of higher education in the region, then they should be considered just like anybody else."

"I think as a matter of public policy that you do want to have representation of all segments of our population, and certainly minority participation is extremely important," he said. "I think similarly it is important to have representation from South Texas."

For Ayavaera, the ethnicity of the future regents is unimportant as long as they realize the goal of the Board.

"I would hope that we don't bury ourselves in ethnic issues and forget what the real issue is at hand, and that is the education of young people in this state," he said.

"My concern would be that whoever is appointed is someone that is sensitive to the needs of the region and someone who listens to those of us that are out here trying to do the job."



Sweetheart o' mine

Paula Dube, a senior biochemistry major from La Marque, reacts to a Valentine card presented to her Tuesday by Don Meier, a senior civil engineering major from Amarillo.

Photo by Dean Saito

Texas Tech gets contract for SDI research

LUBBOCK (AP) — Although the future of the weapons system is in doubt, the U.S. Department of Defense has awarded a \$4.3 million contract to Texas Tech University for research into high-power switching systems for the Strategic Defense Initiative.

The contract awarded to the Research Foundation at Texas Tech is the largest sum of money the school has received from the Defense Department and will be used to fund continued research of the high-power switches used in space-based missile defense, commonly known as Star Wars.

The research will be funded over three years, officials said.

U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm made the funding announcement Monday as he toured the facilities that will be used for the research.

Texas Tech has been involved in SDI research for four years, since receiving a \$3.7 million grant. The school's success in past research enabled it to receive the new contract, Gramm said.

Earlier research involved several aspects of SDI, said Kris Kristiansen, Texas Tech physics and electrical engineering professor.

The new research will include the testing of materials to withstand the environment in space and the precision of allowing switches to turn on and off simultaneously while controlling missile defense systems.

Researchers will study the properties of electrical energy as controlled by the switches.

"We will be working toward the development of state-of-the-art switches by learning about the phenomena and environment of space," Dean of Engineering Mason Somerville said.

University newspaper distributes condoms

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Students at the University of Texas at San Antonio got a unique Valentine's Day present with their copy of the student newspaper Tuesday: condoms that student leaders said were being distributed because of the administration's lackadaisical attitude toward AIDS education.

About 6,000 copies of *The Paisano*, an independent publication produced by the Student Newspaper Association, were distributed and inside were condoms, an AIDS prevention brochure and other AIDS-related stories.

UT-San Antonio's Student Representative Assembly paid the newspaper a \$300 advertising fee for the condom inserts. The condoms, in cellophane wrappers pasted to the AIDS brochure, were provided free by the San Antonio AIDS Foundation.

Student leaders said the condoms and AIDS prevention materials were intended to promote AIDS education because the university had ignored the problem by not allowing condom distribution on campus and keeping on hand outdated AIDS informational brochures.

"They are taking the ostrich approach," said Judie Morgan, the student body historian who has led the effort to get AIDS information on campus.

"They are taking the ostrich approach. They are burying their heads in the sand and saying, 'If we don't confront it, it will go away.' I refuse to give up until AIDS information and condoms are available on this campus to all students."

— Judie Morgan, student body historian

"I refuse to give up until AIDS information and condoms are available on this campus to all students," Morgan said.

and condoms are available on this campus to all students," the 28-year-old Morgan, a junior English-French major, said.

Morgan and other student leaders said that their nemesis was Dr. Dora Hauser, the dean of students, who they claimed has failed to address the campus AIDS policy.

Hauser did not return telephone calls to the Associated Press, but told the student newspaper that she was against the condom distribution.

"I think to put prophylactics on campus is sending out the wrong message," she said. "That is sending out the message that they are safe and I don't believe it."

"I approve of that kind of a lifestyle, because I'm not sure that I do," she said.

University spokesman Gina Sach said the university had sponsored an AIDS awareness week last year, planned to sponsor another one this year and said that numerous brochures, the latest published in 1988, are available for students.

She said 21 different pamphlets and 16 different videotapes on AIDS education are

available in the university's health center.

"They are making it seem like it's students against the administration," Sach said. "The administration shares the concern that we do have to make information available to students."

Some students were surprised Tuesday when they opened up their copy of *The Paisano*.

"I was surprised, but I think it's great," said Andre Huykman, 23, a junior business major from the Netherlands. "It's the first step in education because the condom is just the tool to extend the notion of safer sex."

"I think it's a great idea," said Elizabeth Townsend, an 18-year-old freshman student from England. "It's stupid to go around ignorant about AIDS."

"I think it's disgusting. I just don't think it's appropriate. Can you imagine a female opening up a newspaper and finding a condom inside?" said Tom Christman, 21, a senior management-marketing major.

"If a guy can't go down to the drug store and get a condom, then I don't think he should be having sex at all," Christman said.

Afghan soldiers stand alone, defend airport from guerillas

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Military transport planes carried the last Soviet soldiers home from Kabul on Tuesday, a Red army officer said, leaving a conscript Afghan army to defend the capital alone for the first time in nine years.

A few young Afghan soldiers, outside the airport gates, watched the Soviet soldiers board the planes in gray dress uniforms and fur hats.

Moslem guerillas, who began fighting after a communist coup in 1978, have surrounded and blockaded the cold, hungry city for months.

They fired five rockets into Kabul on Tuesday, the day before the deadline for Soviet withdrawal. One killed four children and an old man lined up in the snow for bread, the state radio reported.

Two landed at the airport in the first such attack on the facility for more than a month. They struck near a runway but Soviet soldiers still at the airport said no one was injured.

Poland closed its Kabul embassy Tuesday and evacuated the few remaining diplomats, as Hungary had done last week.

Western nations, including the United States, closed their legations earlier. The Soviets are keeping their embassy open but the staff has

been reduced from more than 300 to about 100.

A council called by guerrilla leaders to choose an interim Moslem government for Afghanistan convened Friday in Pakistan, but deteriorated into arguments between moderates and fundamentalists over issues including how to divide representation between the Sunni Moslem majority and Shiite minority.

Insurgents claim the government of President Najib will fall soon after the Soviets are gone. The interim government would arrange elections and administer the country until they were held.

Soviet soldiers entered Afghanistan in December 1979 and an estimated 115,000 were in the country when the withdrawal began May 15, 1988, under a U.N.-mediated agreement. Wednesday is the deadline for all Soviet soldiers to be gone.

In Moscow, Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Perfilev said the Soviet pullout was exactly on schedule and the last Soviet soldier would be out of Afghan territory by the deadline.

"As of Feb. 15, not a single Soviet soldier will be on Afghan territory," Perfilev said.

The last Red army troops to leave Kabul had been stationed at the airport, protecting an emergency Soviet airlift of food and fuel that be-

gan last month. Soviet officers have said it would bring in 12,000 tons of food in the first half of February before stopping because of the withdrawal.

After manning their posts part of the day Tuesday, the Red army troopers changed from filthy green duty uniforms to dress grays and filed into four huge Ilyushin 76 transports. About 80 men were seen boarding.

Lt. Col. Pyotr Sardarchuk, commander of the airport detail, was asked the exact number in the group and said only "all those who are left." He shook the hands of the journalists watching and said "Goodbye."

Soviet diplomats said several thousand other soldiers were approaching the Soviet border from elsewhere in Afghanistan.

A U.N. airlift of food to Kabul has been suspended because airlines that provided chartered planes fear for the safety of their crews and aircraft.

Guerrilla attacks and heavy snow have interrupted the arrival of food, fuel and other supplies by road.

On Monday, a column of Afghan trucks loaded with Soviet-supplied food and fuel reached Kabul from the north, and delivered wheat, rice, kerosene and gasoline to the capital, Tass said.

Hays vetoes bill listing spring voting locations

By Kelly S. Brown

STAFF WRITER

Student Body President Jay Hays vetoed a bill Tuesday that listed the times and places for spring elections.

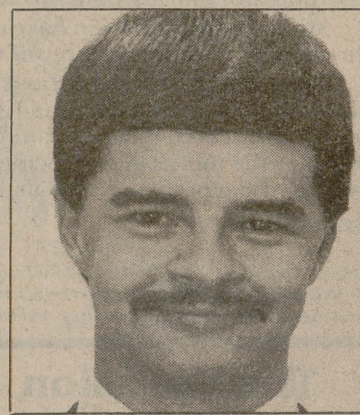
Citing his responsibility to govern fair elections as the main reason, Hays said he didn't think Kleberg, the MSC, Sbsia, the Quad, Blocker and the Academic Building were representative of neutral polling places.

These sites were approved during the Feb. 8 Student Senate meeting. Although the times of the elections are to be left as stated in the original bill, it is the locations that Hays wants to see changed.

"There are logistical problems with the bill," Hays said. "It would take at least 200 people per day to run the six polling places, and it's crucial that every worker show up — I just don't see that happening."

Hays also said that a significant amount of concern was brought to his attention by students who said the list of polling places gave unfair advantage to on-campus students.

"I'd like to see it go back to Kle-



Jay Hays

berg, Academic, Blocker, and the library," Hays said.

"I am concerned to an infinite degree about maintaining clean, unbiased elections," he said. "I don't want students on the north or south side to think they're being left out. They will have the same opportunity to vote as all other students."

Hays resubmitted the bill to the election commissioners to revise the list so it can be presented during the next Student Senate meeting Feb. 22.